

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (Previously presented) A method of reducing damage to an internally coated medical implant during the expansion of the medical implant, the method comprising:

providing an internally coated medical implant having an inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface of the implant at least partially coated with a coating; and

providing a balloon catheter having a multi-wing balloon, the multi-wing balloon having a previously selected number of expandable folds, the number of folds being selected to reduce the deformation of coating of the medical implant caused by the expansion of the multi-wing balloon during expansion of the coated medical implant.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

crimping the coated medical implant onto the multi-wing balloon;

positioning the multi-wing balloon with the coated medical implant crimped thereon at a target site in the body; and expanding the multi-wing balloon.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

encircling the multi-wing balloon with a removable elastic membrane before crimping the coated medical implant onto the multi-wing balloon.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of folds in the multi-wing balloon is related to a number of cells in the coated medical implant.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of folds selected is also selected such that during expansion of the coated medical implant the internal surface coating remains substantially intact after the medical implant has been expanded.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the number of folds selected for the multi-wing balloon has an inverse relationship to the softness of the coating of the medical implant.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the multi-wing balloon expands in a sweeping spiral fashion.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the removable elastic membrane has been pre-treated to reduce the adhesion between the membrane and the coating on the coated medical implant.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the pre-treatment includes coating the elastic membrane.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the pre-treatment includes heating the elastic membrane.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the pre-treatment includes polishing the surface of the elastic membrane.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coating includes a polymer.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coating includes a therapeutic agent.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coating includes a bio-compatible polymer and a therapeutic agent.
15. (Previously presented) A coated medical implant delivery system comprising:
 - an internally coated medical implant having an inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface of the implant at least partially coated with a coating; and
 - a multi-wing balloon catheter having a previously selected number of expandable folds, the expandable folds in contact with the inner coating of the medical implant, the number of folds selected to reduce the deformation of coating of the medical implant caused by the expansion of the multi-wing balloon catheter during expansion of the coated medical implant.
16. (Previously presented) The coated medical implant delivery system of claim 15 wherein the number of folds in the multi-wing balloon catheter has an inverse relationship to the adhesiveness of the coating of the medical implant to the medical implant.

17. (Previously presented) The coated medical implant delivery system of claim 15 further comprising:

an elastic membrane located between the expandable folds and the coating of the medical implant.

18. (Previously presented) The coated medical implant delivery system of claim 17 wherein the elastic membrane has been pre-treated to reduce the adhesion between the elastic membrane and the coating of the medical implant.

19. (Previously presented) The coated medical implant delivery system of claim 18 wherein the pre-treatment includes coating the elastic membrane and wherein the implant is a stent.

20. (Previously presented) The coated medical implant delivery system of claim 18 wherein the pre-treatment includes polishing the elastic membrane and wherein the coating of the medical implant comprises either a polymer or a therapeutic agent.

21. (Original) The coated medical implant delivery system of claim 17 wherein the elastic membrane has been pre-treated on an outside surface to reduce the adhesion between the coating of the medical implant and the membrane wherein the elastic membrane has been pre-treated on an inside surface to reduce the adhesion between the membrane and the balloon.

22. (Previously presented) A coated medical implant delivery system comprising:

a coated medical implant; and

an expandable balloon supporting the coated medical implant, the balloon having a previously polished external surface.